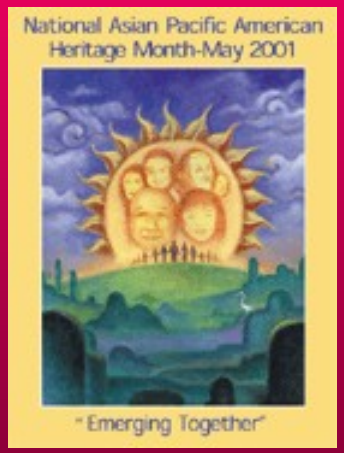
Asian Pacific Heritage Month

May 2009

“Leadership to meet the challenges of a changing world



“A Team of Champions”

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

The United States is a nation comprised almost entirely of immigrants and their descendants. The interaction of different cultures, each of which has become a vital part of a culture uniquely American, constantly revitalizes our national spirit and heritage. The United States owes a debt of gratitude to Asian Pacific Americans for their contributions.

In 1978, Representatives Norman Mineta and Frank Horton, along with Senators Spark Matsunaga and Daniel Inouye, introduced resolutions stating that "the President is hereby authorized and requested to issue a proclamation designating the 7 day period beginning on May 4, 1979, as 'Asian-Pacific American Heritage Week.“ On Oct, 23, 1992, President Bush signed legislation into law to designate May of each year as “Asian Pacific American Heritage Month”. The law, introduced by Rep. Frank Horton (R-NY) and Norman Mineta (D-CA) was approved unanimously by the House of representatives and the Senate during the 102nd Congress. It is now almost 20 years since the original proclamation was signed, and Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month has been celebrated every year. Asian Pacific

May was chosen because several significant events in Asian and Pacific American history occurred during this month. For example, on May 7, 1843, the first Japanese immigrants arrived in America. On May 10, 1869, the Golden Spike, signifying the contributions of Chinese Americans in building this country's transcontinental railroad, was driven.

Every May, there are scores of events held by federal agencies, community groups, civic groups, students and others to celebrate Asian Pacific American (APA) Heritage Month. In order to understand the significance of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, it is important to understand the evolution and convergence of many diverse groups that comprise the APA community.

Asian Pacific American is a political appellation that encompasses many ethnic groups with diverse backgrounds, histories, languages and cultures. By definition, the term Asian Pacific American attempts to give expression to cultural, linguistic, and ethnic diversity while recognizing common historical experiences in American history. Asian Pacific American Heritage Month celebrates the collective accomplishments of these heterogeneous communities.

Who are the Asian Pacific Americans

According to definitions provided by the Census Bureau, Asians include persons who report their race or identify themselves as shown below. They may be collectively described as Asian Pacific Americans for short.

Asians	Other Asians	Pacific Islanders	Melanesians
• Chinese • Filipino • Indian (Asian) • Japanese • Korean • Vietnamese	• Bangladeshi • Burmese • Cambodian • Hmong • Indonesian • Laotian • Malaysian • Singaporean • Pakistani • Sri Lankan • Thai	• Polynesians • Micronesians • Melanesians	• Hawaiian • Samoan • Guamanian • Tahitian • Northern Mariana Islander • Palauan • Fijian

Asian Pacific Flags

BANGLADESH

CAMBODIA

CHINA

FIJI

HAWAII

INDIA

JAPAN

N-KOREA

S-KOREA

LAOS

MALAYSIA

MICRONESIA

PAKISTAN

PALAU

PHILIPPINES

INDONESIA

SINGAPORE

SRI LANKA

THAILAND

VIETNAM

Asian Pacific Flags

BANGLADESH

CAMBODIA

CHINA

FIJI

HAWAII

INDIA

JAPAN

N-KOREA

S-KOREA

LAOS

MALAYSIA

MICRONESIA

PAKISTAN

PALAU

PHILIPPINES

INDONESIA

SINGAPORE

SRI LANKA

THAILAND

VIETNAM

A BRIEF LOOK AT ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN IMMIGRATION

I. Essential Labor to Industrialize America

From 1850 to World War II, Asians immigrating to the United States were largely subject to the labor needs of a rapidly industrializing nation and to the struggle between labor and industry. In the late 19th century, Asian immigrants came to the United States to support the growing agricultural and railway industries. Chinese workers constructed the western half of the first transcontinental railroad deemed critical to linking the emerging U.S. markets and providing a gateway to the Pacific. In the late 19th and early 20th century, the Chinese were followed by the Japanese and the Filipinos and, in smaller numbers, by Koreans and Asian Indians.

In response to the chronic labor shortage in the agricultural industry in the West Coast, Japanese and Filipino laborers were hired to work on farms, mostly in California. Asians provided

II. Discriminatory Laws and the "Yellow Peril"

As the numbers of Asian immigrants increased and they made the transition to small businesses or to tenant farming, tensions mounted and public opinion turned against them. Chinese were portrayed as the "yellow peril" and Asians were labeled as "foreigners" or "aliens". It was in this period that the worst racist laws were enacted to place restrictions on land ownership, citizenship, occupations and most importantly, immigration.

- In 1790, a law was passed allowing only white persons to become citizens. Even after the law was changed to include African Americans, similar legislation to include APAs was rejected. The Supreme Court even upheld the laws making Asians ineligible for citizenship. It was not until 1952 with the passage of the McCarran-Walter Act when naturalization eligibility was extended to all races that the last of these laws were repealed.

- The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was one of the worst example of racist immigration legislation. Chinese were specifically excluded by federal law from emigrating to the United States. This resulted in many Chinese families being separated for decades until the laws were repealed.

•The Immigration Act of 1917 banned immigration from almost all the countries in the Asia-Pacific Triangle except for the Philippines and Japan.

•The Immigration Act of 1924 further restricted immigration by banning immigration of persons ineligible for citizenship.

•Eighteen years later in 1942, one of the most tragic event in American history occurred. On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 which led to the incarceration of over 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II. Shortly thereafter, all American citizens of Japanese descent were prohibited from living, working or traveling on the West Coast of the United States with no evidence to support the massive denial of constitutional rights and liberties. Between the 1940s and the 1960s when immigration was severely restricted, the APA population was largely U.S. born APAs.

It was not until 1965 with the passage of the Immigration and Naturalization Act that Congress eliminated the final vestiges of these unfair immigration laws. Since then there has been a dramatic growth in the Asian Pacific American population. The second wave of Asian immigration produced by this relaxing of

To atone for the severe injustice to the Japanese Americans who were interned during World War II, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 was passed by Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan on August 10, 1988. The Act established the Office of Redress Administration and the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund. The Office of Redress Administration was charged with identifying all potential recipients deemed eligible for redress so each could receive a payment of $20,000 and a letter of apology from the President of the United States. The Civil Liberties Education Fund was established in 1996 to sponsor research and public educational activities so that the events surrounding the Japanese internment will be remembered and its causes may be better understood.

IV. Immigration Trends and Political Empowerment

Post-1965 immigration also saw a different wave of immigration from Asia. Unlike the majority of Asians that came before them, the next wave of immigrants were skilled and were admitted based on their potential economic contributions to this nation. Many entered the U.S. under occupational preferences resulting in a high percentage of college educated immigrants which along with the highly-educated second generation APAs have formed the backbone of the significant APA middle class.

From 1960 to 1990, the U.S. APA population grew from about 1 million to over 7 million, making it the fastest growing segment of the country. According to the Census Bureau there were 9.76 million APAs living in the United States as of July 1, 1995.

APAs now make up 3.7% of the nation's population. According to the Census predictions, by the year 2050, one out of 10 Americans will trace their heritage to Asian or Pacific Island roots.

Recently, APAs are taking significant steps on the road to political empowerment. Previously invisible and untapped by political parties, the APA population is becoming a potent political force capable of swinging the vote in key electoral states and congressional districts.

APAs are concentrated in five states which carry large electoral votes - California, Hawaii, Texas, Illinois, and New York There are also at least 65 Congressional districts where APAs represent 5% or more of the constituency. With Congressional races often won or lost by less than 5%, APAs can make a tremendous difference when they exercise their right to vote.

APA Heritage Month
Who's Who in Asian Pacific America

Here are many of the Asian Pacific Americans who have made a significant impact in the world today.

Arts & Humanities

Entertainment

News & Media

Politics

Sports

Government

Health & Science

Education

Business & Economy

Arts

&

Humanitie

Deepak Chopra, M.D., Author

The prolific author of self-help books and audio/video programs, Deepak Chopra has established himself as an international wellness guru. Combining traditionally Eastern and Western ideals, Chopra has changed many lives with his perspectives on health and meditation. His paradigm revolves around the symbiotic relationship of the mind, body, and spirit in order to achieve a harmonious balance in life. After making presentations to world leaders and conducting an endless number of seminars, it is no wonder that he was named one of the top ten motivational speakers by *Esquire* magazine. Chopra was also lauded by the Toastmasters International, receiving highest honors for communication excellence and leadership, and by the Pio Manzu Centre, receiving the Medal of the Presidency of the Italian Republic for his

Maya Lin, Monumental Artist

Renowned architect and artist Maya Lin is best known for her work for the U.S. Vietnam Veterans Memorial. While still in college, she was catapulted into the public eye with her stoic design to remember the Vietnam veterans. Lin, who describes her artwork as primarily humanist and emotion centered, has continued to touch many lives with her memorial piece to honor the victims of the Civil Rights Movement, situated in Montgomery, Alabama. Although she no longer designs monuments, Lin runs her own design studio in New York, focusing on architectural and sculpture pieces. A documentary film, *A Strong Clear Vision*, depicting Maya Lin's commemorative

Vera Wang, Fashion Designer

Vera Wang has quickly become one of the most sought after bridal & evening wear designers within the past six years. With no formal design training, she began her work as an editor for the fashion magazine *Vogue*. After seventeen years with *Vogue*, Wang was eventually named design director for Ralph Lauren before opening her first boutique in 1990, on Manhattan's illustrious Madison Avenue. Her clientele has ranged from Olympic athletes to famous singers and actors. Vera Wang's signature trademark has become her use of illusion netting, giving the appearance of bare skin while the skin is totally covered.

Business

&

Economy

Robert C. Nakasone, President/CEO, Toys "R" Us, Inc.

Before becoming the highest ranking Asian American of a Fortune 100 corporation, Robert Nakasone began his studies at Claremont McKenna College. A Southern California native, Robert eventually ventured out to the Midwest to attend the University of Chicago for his MBA. Recently promoted to CEO of Toys "R" Us, Robert has command over the booming toy industry, with stores reaching out to seventeen different countries. With well rounded interests, he has managed to stay active in community affairs through his involvement with the Japanese American National Museum Leadership Campaign as

Jerry Yang, CEO, Yahoo! Inc.

With the Internet revolution came entrepreneur Jerry Yang. As a former Ph.D. student at Stanford University, Yang started Yahoo! Inc. with his fellow classmate David Filo, in 1994. The idea for Yahoo! came after the two friends began compiling a list of their favorite Web sites. That list burgeoned into the multi-million dollar company that has continued to challenge the computer market with its unique style. Yahoo! has also branched into other forms of media with The Yahoo! Guide to the Internet book and the Yahoo! Internet Life magazine, quickly rising to the top of the best-seller list. Despite the overnight success of the company, Yang has managed to keep Yahoo! focused on

Loida Lewis, Chair/CEO, TLC Beatrice International

Reforming TLC Beatrice International from a sinking company into a billion dollar conglomerate, Loida Lewis turned the business around single-handedly. Previously run by her husband Reginald, Lewis took control of the company after her husband's death several years ago. With her savvy business mind, she has kept TLC Beatrice one of the leading U.S. women-owned companies. An author and activist, Lewis maintains a steady involvement with the Asian Pacific American community through her support of several non-profit agencies.

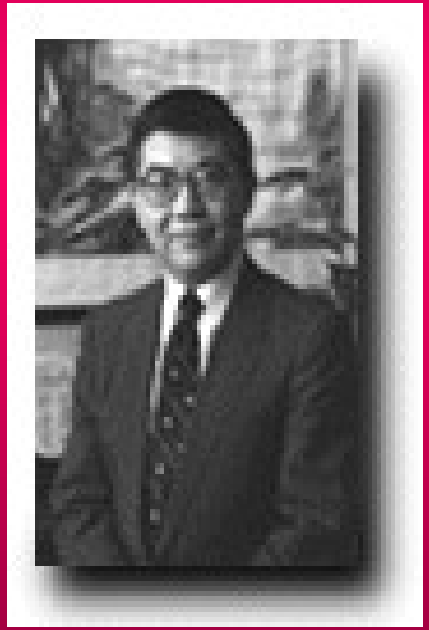
Education

Elaine L. Chao, Distinguished Fellow/Senior Editor, The Heritage Foundation

In August 1996, Elaine Chao was appointed a Distinguished Fellow at the Heritage Foundation, a premier policy research institute in Washington, D.C., where she serves as Senior Editor of Policy Review, The Journal of American Citizenship. An MBA graduate from Harvard University, Chao's background is in international banking and finance. Although she began working as a banker, she later served as a White House Fellow in 1983-84. Making her mark in federal government, Chao has held positions as deputy secretary of the US Department of Transportation, chairman of Federal Maritime Commission, and director of the Peace Corps. Prior to joining The Heritage Foundation, Chao served as President/CEO to United Way of America(UWA), leading the organization during

Chang-Lin Tien, Former Chancellor, University of California, Berkeley

Dr. Chang-Lin Tien is widely recognized for his seven year post as Chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley. While maintaining his seat as the first Asian American to head a primary U.S. research university, Tien promoted educational outreach to all groups and remained committed to maintaining academic excellence. However, Dr. Tien's experience is not limited to his Chancellorship. Tien began teaching in 1959 and a few years later became the youngest professor to win Berkeley's Distinguished Teaching Award. In addition to his plethora of honors and awards, Tien has made astounding contributions to the field of Science via



Don T. Nakanishi, Professor/ Director, UCLA Asian American Stu enter

Professor Don T. Nakanishi is widely recognized as one of the nation's experts on American race relations and the politics of diversity. Appointed by President Clinton in 1995 to the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund Board of Directors, Nakanishi has continued to make significant contributions to the field of Education. Currently Director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, he is the author of over seventy books and articles reflecting on the access, representation and influence of Asian Pacific Americans and other populations of color in major political, social, and educational institutions and sectors. Also active in community affairs, he serves on the board of several

Entertainment

Brook Mahealani Lee, Miss Universe 1997

Hawaiian native Brook Mahealani Lee won the title of Miss Universe 1997, representing the United States. With a Masters degree in Communications and her mixed ethnic background (Hawaiian, Korean, Chinese, Caucasian), Lee has broken the conventional stereotypes that usually accompany beauty pageant titles. The first Asian American to win the coveted title, Lee's pan-Asian looks have made her a visible role model to young girls of Asian descent everywhere. Through her recent travel experiences and as a response to the multitude of fan mail, Lee states she will use her high profile status as a platform to promote ideas of self-acceptance and elevated self-esteem to the younger generation.

Yo-Yo Ma, Cellist, Boston Symphony Orchestra

Born in Paris in 1955, Yo-Yo Ma started his music career studying with Janos Scholz and Leonard Rose. He later moved to Boston, Massachusetts, where he finished his undergraduate degree at Harvard University. A world-renown cellist, Yo-Yo Ma has gained recognition as a soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician. Although he plays with the Boston Symphony Orchestra regularly, Ma has also played with various symphony orchestras from Israel to the Los Angeles Philharmonics. With twelve Grammy awards credited to his name, he has established himself as a dedicated and determined virtuoso. Aside from his dozens of record recordings with performance pianist Emanuel Ax, Ma also spends some time every summer working with young musicians at the Tanglewood Music Center. More recently, Ma has been expanding and experimenting with his standard repertoire to include world music and

Russell Wong, Actor

New York native Russell Wong has recently made a name for himself in Hollywood with his syndicated television series The Vanishing Son. Wong, who is often recognized for his performance in the feature film The Joy Luck Club, has also ben the leading actor in a number of films, including Eat a Bowl of Tea, China Girl, and New Jack City. He most recently signed a three picture deal with Miramax Pictures to do a series of action films. Wong's diverse background training ranges from film school classes to the martial arts and professional dancing. A charismatic and talented performer, Wong has also been acknowledged as a positive Asian American role model. He is the

Government

General Eric Shinseki, Chief of Staff, United States Army

One of the highest ranking Asian Americans in the military, General Eric Shinseki has dedicated over thirty-five years of service to the US government. In the 1960's, Shinseki's military career began at West Point Academy and eventually led him into the Vietnam War. Lauded for his brave service to the country, Shinseki was also honored with a Purple Heart. He later went on to participate in the Gulf War and has served in Eastern Europe as the Commander, NATO Stablization Force. General Shinseki assumed duties as the 34th Chief of Staff, United States Army, on 22 June 1999.

Rear Admiral Ming E. Chang, Vice President, Raytheon International, Inc.

Prior to his position at Raytheon International, Inc., Rear Admiral Ming Chang served in the United States Navy for thirty-four years. His extensive career included increasingly important assignments in the Navy's cruiser and destroyer commands. R. Adm. Chang's last assignment before retirement was with the Department of the Navy Inspector General, from 1987-1990. He currently holds a dual post of Vice President and Corporate Director for the Pacific Region at Raytheon International, Inc. His responsibilities include the coordination of the company's commercial and Government Group marketing and business development strategy.

Rose Ochi, Assistant Attorney General and Director of the Justice Department's Community Relations Service

The first Asian American woman to serve as the Assistant Attorney General, Rose Ochi's presidential appointment was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate on March 20, 1997. Ochi has been lauded by Asian Pacific American and civil rights communities for her extensive experience in building collaborative partnerships between multi-racial communities, law enforcement, and governmental agencies. Her fervent commitment to pursuing equal justice stems from her family's first hand experience with racial discrimination. During WWII, Ochi and her family were among the 120,000 Americans of Japanese descent unfairly interned in detention camps. This painful experience left her with a strong desire to make a positive difference for all Americans. Well-recognized for

Health

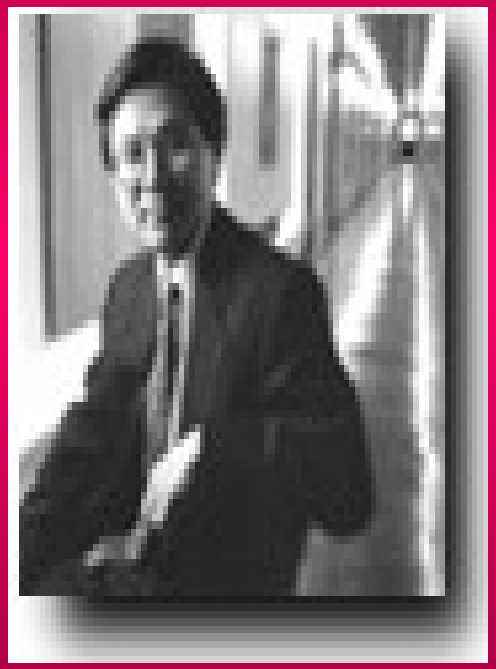
&

‘Science

Kalpana Chawla, Astronaut/Mission Specialist, Nat'l Aeronautics & Space Adm tion

On November 19, 1997, Kalpana Chawla joined the crew of the Columbia Space Shuttle, becoming the first Indian American astronaut in space. Chawla's main responsibility for the mission was to operate the 50 foot robotic arm used for retrieving the free-flying, six million dollar Spartan satellite. She also orchestrated the 6 hour space walk by fellow team members. Chawla, who holds a doctorate in Aerospace Engineering, stated she knew in tenth grade that she wanted to become an astronaut.

David Ho, M.D., Director, Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center



As TIME magazine's 1996 Man of the Year, Dr. David Ho's groundbreaking research efforts on the AIDS virus has garnered international recognition. Currently scientific director of the world's largest independent AIDS research laboratory, Dr. Ho has led the relentless fight against the deadly disease. Since 1991, he has conducted pioneering research at the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center, which is dedicated to understanding the structure and function of the HIV virus and defining the mechanism that destroys the immune system. More recently under Dr. Ho's direction, the New York center has made significant strides in examining the effects of protease inhibitors and

Bobby Jindal, Department Head, Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals

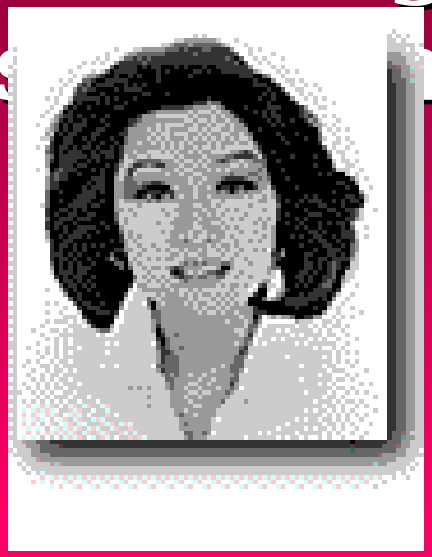
With his remarkable management skills and shrewd instincts, Bobby Jindal has demanded attention from healthcare professionals. In his appointed position as Head of the Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals, this young Indian American oversees the expenditure of government healthcare and ensures the standard quality of care in clinics, hospitals, and nursing homes. Jindal is credited with helping to transform a nearly half-billion dollar deficit into a quarter million surplus for the Department in under two years. However, it is no surprise that he has captured such a high ranking position at the young age of 25. Jindal, a summa

News

&

Media

Connie Chung, News Corres nt, ABC



Best-known for her hard hitting journalism style, Connie Chung has reported on some of the most controversial issues and people for over 30 years. Starting her journalism career as a copy person at a Washington, D.C. television station, Chung worked her way toward a local news correspondent position. Landing a network job in 1971, she began covering stories like the 1972 Presidential campaigns and Watergate for CBS News. After spending some time at NBC, Chung moved back to CBS News, becoming anchor for Face to Face with Connie Chung. Receiving accolades from her peers and critics, she went on to win three Emmy awards and the 1991 American Bar Association's Silver Gavel Award for her investigative reporting.

Ann Curry, News Anchor, NBC

The two-time Emmy-award winning anchor, Ann Curry, has recently made a name for herself in journalism. Since MSNBC's inception, she has become one of the hard hitting network news anchors covering the day's current events and the latest stories. As well, Curry swiftly joined the NBC Dateline and Today show team, filling in as the morning news anchor and as an occasional correspondent. Yet her path to success has not always been a smooth one. Expecting to work in newspapers, she offhandedly started out in a male dominated television station in Oregon. The move helped Curry make the decision to focus on television journalism. After being discouraged by her fellow coworkers, she felt the pressure to prove

Howard G. Chua, Assistant Managing Editor, *TIME* Magazine

Born in the Philippines, Howard Chua-Eoan first came to the U.S. in 1979. After receiving his B.A. in English and later his M.S. in Journalism from Columbia University, Chua_Eoan started as an editorial assistant at *TIME* in 1983. A year later, he became a reporter-researcher and eventually was named a staff writer, shortly thereafter. Dedicated to *TIME* magazine, Chua-Eoan created a niche for himself covering international news, such as the cover story on the 1989 Tianmamen massacre and the 1991 cover story on Saddam Hussein's attack on the Kurds. With a brief two year position as senior editor at *People* magazine, Chua-Eoan has returned to *TIME* magazine as the Assistant Managine Editor, leading it to success.

POLITICS

Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, Congressman, United States Senate

Senator Daniel Inouye has served Hawaii as its Senator since 1963. As the fifth most senior member of the United States Senate, Inouye is the Vice Chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee and Ranking Minority member on the Defense Subcommittee for the Appropriations Committee and the Surface Transportation & Merchant Marine Subcommittee for the Commerce, Science & Transportation Committee. He also holds a seat on the Rules & Administration Committee as well as the Joint Printing Committee. Other positions held include the Senate Democratic Senatorial Campaign committee(ex officio), and the Executive Committee of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. Yet Senator Inouye's service to the country is not limited to his

Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, Congressman, U.S. House of Representatives

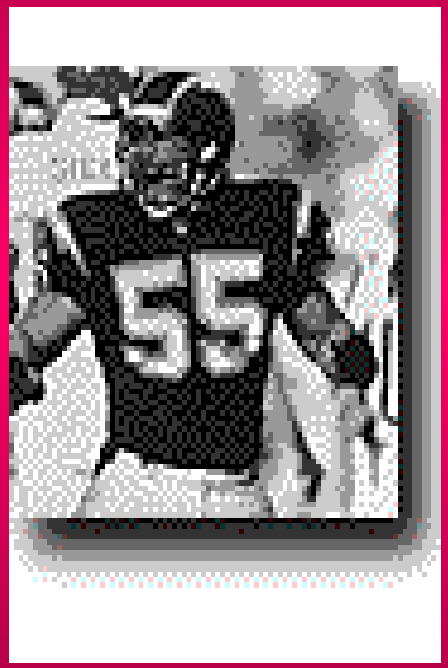
Congressman Eni Faleomavaega of American Samoa has been a member of Congress since 1988 and briefly in the 1970's. Having received a B.A. in Political Science/ History and J.D. from University of Houston Law School, Faleomavaega went on to obtain a Master of Law from the University of California, Berkeley. He also spent some time in Vietnam, serving the U.S. Army. Prior to joining Congress, he served as Deputy Attorney General and Lieutenant Governor of American Samoa. One of the leaders in the congressional protest against the French nuclear tests in the Pacific, Congressman Faleomavaega is the

Gary Locke, 21st Governor, State of Washington

Gary Locke became the first mainland U.S. Asian American governor on November 5, 1996. He began his political career after graduating from Boston University's Law School, serving as a deputy prosecuting attorney for King County. After winning a seat in for the Washington House of Representatives in 1982, Locke's dedication remained steadfast for the next eleven years. Yet it was a 1993 election that named him the Chief Executive of King County and he gained national praises for his work on the city's growth management plan. Locke, a second generation Chinese American, has become a positive role model for many young aspiring Asian American

Sports

Junior Seau, Professional Football Player



Selected in the 1990 NFL draft to join the San Diego Chargers, Junior Seau became a part of the home team that he cherished as a kid. Raised in Oceanside, California, Seau lived in a two bedroom house with his eight family members. With the support of his family members, Seau was able to rise to the top. Voted to six consecutive Pro-Bowls, Seau was also named 1994 NFL's Linebacker of the Year, True Value Hardware NFL Man of the Year 1994, and All- Pro and All-AFC in 1993. Never forgetting his childhood experiences, he has spent a lot of time giving back to the community. Seau established a foundation in his name designed to benefit local youth programs in San Diego. He also formed the Junior Seau's Drug-Busters Basketball Team and

Michelle Kwan, Olympic Skater

A true athlete, Michelle Kwan has demonstrated a unique artistry and grace on the ice. An Olympic Silver medalist at the 1998 Nagano Olympic games, Kwan fulfilled one of her childhood dreams by participating in this international event. Kwan began skating at the age of five, but only had Olympic aspirations after meeting Olympic Gold medalist Brian Boitano. With National and World Championship titles in Figure Skating under her belt, this focused individual has proven that she is able to withstand the pressure of competition. Although her expressive skating style has become

Michael Chang, Professional Tennis Player

In 1989, Michael Chang became the youngest French Open and Grand Slam champion at age seventeen. The first American male to win the French Open since 1955, Chang received praises from around the world. Yet in the wake of his success, he dedicated his victory to the lives lost during the Tiananmen Square Massacre in China. He has also been an avid supporter of grassroots tennis development in Asia through competition and promotion. Chang, upset by a hip injury in 1990, has made an admirable comeback, winning the Canadian Open that same year. Coached by his older brother Carl since 1991, he has gone on to win numerous titles. Known for his sportsmanship, humility, and tenacity, Chang has captured respect

Some Interesting Asian American Facts...

1.The word "ketchup" originates from the Malay word "koetsiap" which means seafood sauce.

2.The smallest adult fish, about one inch in length, called "lubo-lubo" is commonly found in the Visayan Islands in the Philippines.

3.The games Chutes and Ladders and Parcheesi originated in India.

4.The word "shampoo" originates from the Hindi word "capo" meaning to "press or massage."

5.The kiwi fruit is native to south central China.

6.The Taj Mahal mausoleum was built by the Mugal emperor Shah Jahn as a tribute to his wife, who died giving childbirth. It took over 20,000 people daily and 22 years to complete the complex.

7.There are over 60 million people in the world with the

Some Interesting Asian American Facts…

8. One of the deepest sites in the ocean is the "Philippine Deep" located in Mindanao which is in the Southern Philippines.
9. Many of the first vineyards and wine cellars in California's Napa Valley were constructed by Chinese workers.
10. Dalip. S. Saund, a Punjabi Sikh, was the first Asian American elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.
11. Anti-miscegenation laws were not abolished in all 50 states until 1967.
12. The Florida orange hardy enough to withstand winter freezes and summer rainstorms was developed by Chinese American horticulturalist, Lue Gim Gong.
13. The yo-yo originated from the Philippines where it was first used as a weapon during battle.
14. Around 2500 B.C., the practice of yoga was developed by the Indian scholar Pantanjali as a pathway for fulfillment and personal development.

Asian Pacific American Contributions

-Chinese laborers were the main work force in the construction of the first Transcontinental Railroad, as well as construction of a huge railway network throughout the South and Southwest. They were also instrumental as laborers in mining, farming, canal construction, and land reclamation in early California, helping to greatly accelerate the state's agricultural development. Chinese were leaders in the development of fruit and vegetable farming in California, as well as the fishing industry there.

-Asian Americans hold more top positions in science and medicine than native-born Blacks or Hispanics. A very high percentage of Asian immigrants have advanced college degrees (one survey showed nearly 91 percent of Asian Indian professionals had some sort of college diploma), allowing them to become leaders in their respective fields. Their contributions to these fields have been innumerable.

-Dr. Wen-Tsing Chow, a Chinese-American engineer working for American Bosch Arma Corporation in the development of inertial guidance systems for the Air Force's Titan and Atlas missiles, pioneered the use of photochemical circuitry, allowing for

Asian Pacific American Contributions

-Over 1,000 Japanese cherry trees were planted around the Tidal Basin in Washington, DC in 1909. The trees were a gift from the mayor of Tokyo.

-Cherries were cultivated in China approximately 4,000 years ago, but a Chinese immigrant named Ah Bing developed the Bing Cherry in 1875. Chinese immigrant Luey Gim Gong, a famed horticulturist, developed a strain of frost-resistant oranges in addition to new strains of numerous other fruits.

-Asian Indian immigrants settled in large numbers as farmers in California's Imperial Valley. The Imperial Valley at times supplies up to 90 percent of the nation's lettuce. The Indian farmers' "imported" farming methods turned land that produced 90 crates of cantaloupes per acre into land producing 150 crates per acre. The much larger Sacramento Valley is also home to many Asian Indian Americans who, utilizing their skills along with modern machinery have become a major supplier of food for America.

Asian Pacific American Contributions

-The martial arts have become an important part of American sports as well as self-defense. First introduced by returning American servicemen after World War II and the Korean War, the oriental disciplines of judo, jiu-jitsu, karate, kendo, aikido, tae kwon do, and others are now taught all over the United States.

-Many forms of Japanese art have been accepted in America. Japanese gardens and landscaping have proven popular for their simplicity. Many Americans enjoy "bonsai," the growth of miniature trees, and "ikebana," or Japanese flower arrangement, as hobbies. Japanese painting and print making have influenced American artists. Other areas of Japanese influence includes textiles. Paper made from wood pulp is a Japanese invention, as is rattan furniture. Bamboo, long used in Japan for building purposes, has found many uses in the U.S.

-Some Asian words which have become part of the American language: tea, typhoon, tong, kumquat, kowtow, and honcho (from han-cho meaning squad leader), shanghai (to press into service), yen (desire), chow, and chop-chop.

健康長壽

Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month

The Chinese calligraphy in the logo above translates as “Good